

## RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

scale production. Another portion is made up of the ruined artisans who are being driven out of the decaying handicrafts, which are widely spread even in the most advanced colonies. The ruined artisan, a petty owner, carries with him into the working class a guild tendency and ideology which serves as a basis for the penetration of national-reformist influence into the labour movement of the colonies.

The great fluctuation in the composition of the proletariat (frequent renewal of the labour force in the factories owing to workers returning to the villages and the inflow of new masses of poverty-stricken peasants into production); the considerable percentage of women and children; the numerous different languages; illiteracy; the wide distribution of religious and caste prejudices—all make difficult the work of systematic agitation and propaganda and retard the growth of class consciousness among the workers. Nevertheless, the merciless exploitation, practised in the most oppressive forms by native and foreign capital, and the entire absence of political rights for the workers, create the objective pre-conditions on the basis of which the labour movement in the colonies is rapidly overcoming all obstacles and every year draws greater and greater masses of the working class into the struggle against the native exploiters and the imperialists.

The first period of the growth of the labour movement in the colonial and semi-colonial countries (approximately 1919-1923) is organically bound up with the general growth of the national-revolutionary movement which followed the world war, and which was characterised by the subordination of the class interests of the working class to the interests of the anti-imperialist struggle headed by the native bourgeoisie. In so far as the labour strikes and other demonstrations bore an organisational character, they were usually organised by petty bourgeois intellectuals who restricted the demands of the workers to questions of the national struggle. The most important characteristic of the second period of rapid growth of the labour movement in the colonies, on the other hand, the period which began after the V. Congress of the Communist International, was the

emergence of the  
working class of the colonies into the political arena as  
an independent  
class force directly opposing itself to the national  
bourgeoisie, and entering  
upon a struggle with the latter in defence of its own  
immediate class in-  
terests and for hegemony in the national revolution as a  
whole. The history  
of the last few years has clearly confirmed this  
characteristic of the new  
stage of the colonial revolution, first of all in the  
example of the great  
Chinese revolution, and subsequently in the insurrection  
in Indonesia.  
There is every ground to believe that in India the working  
class is liberating  
itself from the influence of the nationalist and social-  
reformist leaders and  
is being converted into an independent political factor  
in the struggle  
against the British imperialists and the native bourgeoisie.  
22. In order correctly to determine the immediate tasks of  
the revolu-